

3 June 1957

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to DD/I (Planning)
FROM: Assistant Director for Basic Intelligence
SUBJECT: Semi-annual Report to the President's Board
of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities

Attached is the progress report on the NIS Program requested
in your memorandum of 23 May 1957, subject as above.

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Enclosure:
Basic Intelligence dated
3 June 1957

Distribution:

Orig and 2 - addressee

- 1 - NSC Biographical Report/ President's Board of Consultants
- 1 - Special Studies on FI Activities
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3. Basic Intelligence

1. The NIS Program is steadily fulfilling the fundamental mission set forth for it by the National Security Council in Intelligence Directive No. 3 of 13 January 1948. During almost nine years of operation a total of 3,547 NIS sections has been produced, representing more than 65% of total world coverage, principally on areas of high priority established by the JCS. NIS coverage of the Sino-Soviet Bloc countries is essentially complete and under active maintenance; and similar coverage should be realized by next year for nearly all areas in Western Europe, the Near East, and the Far East. These are significant contributions to the National Intelligence effort and attest to the consistently strong, co-ordinated support of some 40 government activities which contribute to the NIS.

2. NIS production accomplishment by agency during the 1 November 1956 to 1 May 1957 period was as follows:

	<u>Sections Scheduled</u>	<u>Sections Delivered</u>	<u>Percent Fulfillment of Commitment</u>
State	120	78	65%
Army	61	57	93
Navy	29	31	107
Air Force	14	13	93
CIA	63	52	83
Total:	287	231	80%

3. Development of Chapter I is satisfying requirements of policy and planning levels for a brief basic intelligence summary of each NIS area. A total of 22 Chapters I has been produced to date, of which five were produced during the period of this report.

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4. Related to the NIS Program are the foreign geographic name gazetteers which are finding extensive use throughout the Government. NIS Gazetteers comprising nearly two million geographic names have been produced to date and essentially cover all foreign areas of the world. During this six-month period nine NIS Gazetteers were produced, and an additional nine were revised and published under the NIS maintenance program.

5. Agency support and coordination were excellent during the period of this report. NIS intelligence requirements were reviewed and extended to better serve the increasing needs of the Government for comprehensive basic intelligence. While some aspects of our intelligence have improved in quality, we cannot view with complacency the present level of attainment. Moreover, all contributing agencies are prone to defer NIS production until the latter portions of a fiscal year which causes a high production peak towards the end of the year and, in turn, creates a heavy review overload and results in unacceptable delays in the processing and production of the finished intelligence. More important, intelligence quality suffers under such last minute production pressure.

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